

News Release

Minnesota Campus Compact Recognizes the U of M, Crookston at Annual Awards Ceremony in June 2012

By Itollems on Friday, June 15, 2012

Minnesota Campus Compact held their annual awards ceremony in early June 2012 at Macalester College in Minneapolis. University of Minnesota, Crookston Chancellor Charles H. Casey attended the awards ceremony along with Rachel Lundbohm, instructor in the Business Department and Alexandra Buscher, a senior from Merrifield, Minn., majoring in business management. Also joining them was Dave Bennet who represented the Rydell National Wildlife Refuge and Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge at the ceremony.



Each year presidents and chancellors from the 40 college and university members are invited to give statewide recognition to effective civic engagement leaders in three categories including Presidents' Student Leadership Award, Presidents' Community Partner Award, and the Presidents' Civic Engagement Award.

The Presidents' Student Leadership Award was awarded to Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) and accepted by Alexandra Buscher. The award is for an individual student or a student organization that models a deep commitment to civic responsibility and leadership, evidenced by initiative, innovative and collaborative approaches to addressing public issues, effective community building, and integration of civic engagement into the college experience. SIFE students work with small businesses and organizations. Locally, they assisted an entrepreneur with his startup taxicab service and a jam and bagel maker expand her business. They also worked with local elementary and high school students. Globally, they have been focused on the need for clean water. They established a permanent water filtration at a boarding school in Nepal and are currently working on a similar project in Nigeria.

The Presidents' Community Partner Award was awarded to Rydell National Wildlife Refuge/Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge and accepted by Dave Bennett. The award is for a community-based organization that has enhanced the quality of life in the community in meaningful and measurable ways and has engaged in the development of sustained, reciprocal partnerships with the college or university, thus enriching educational as well as community outcomes.

Rydell National Wildlife Refuge and Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge have both served as sites for students to learn about resource management, assist with research studies, and recreate. Students, staff, and refuge staff work together on bluebird house monitoring, photo point monitoring, wood duck box monitoring, buckthorn control, forest restoration, and vegetation inventories.

The Presidents' Civic Engagement Steward Award was awarded to Rachel Lundbohm. This award is for a member of the faculty, administration, or staff or for a group (e.g., advisory committee, task force, project team) that has significantly advanced their campus' distinctive civic mission by forming strong partnerships, supporting others' civic engagement, and working to institutionalize a culture and practice of engagement.

As an instructor and associate director of the Center for Rural Entrepreneurial Studies, Lundbohm has assisted local farmers marketing their produce and improved local farmers' markets through service-learning projects. She was an early proponent of service-learning and partners with several different organizations. Lundbohm says that "marketing students need to be able to market anything," and she is always willing to take on new challenges with her enthusiasm and creative ideas.

Minnesota Campus Compact supports civic engagement and democratic renewal through its diverse network of colleges and universities. To learn more, visit <http://www.mncampuscompact.org>.

Today the University of Minnesota, Crookston delivers 26 bachelor's degree programs, 18 minors, and 36 concentrations, including 10 online degrees, in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of 1,600 undergraduates from 25 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit www.umcrookston.edu.

In the photo, left to right, are Chancellor Charles H. Casey, Dave Bennett, Rachel Lundbohm, and Alex Buscher.

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2900 University Ave., Crookston, MN 56716
800-862-6466 | 218-281-6510 | umcinfo@umn.edu

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